



Thursday 3 December

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# Growing in God

**Information and guidance for churches during the Covid-19 pandemic is being updated. Please visit the Church of England page [here](#) and the Diocesan guidance page [here](#) for the most up to date information.**

Please click [here](#) to download the latest infographic for the rules in Tier 2.



Christmas 2020 | Comfort and Joy | The Church of England

For all the resources for Christmas planning for Comfort and Joy this year please visit our website page [here](#). Our resources include links to printed materials, word searches, as well as music resources from the InHarmony project and Buriensi Consort and more.

Bishop Martin says "I am delighted to recommend to you the marvellous videos produced by the InHarmony Christmas 2020 project. Richard Hubbard and his team have been working hard for the last few months to create this wide-ranging resource of music videos, all performed by Suffolk singers and musicians. Do take a look at what's available and I would encourage you to use these videos in your own services - online or live - wherever possible this Christmas. They are all free. If you need help in putting a video service together, the Buriensi Consort are offering bespoke video production at very reasonable rates."

To catch up on what is happening throughout Suffolk in our parishes, St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Lightwave and more please visit our Christmas website page [here](#).



**Christingle in lockdown** - The Revd Katherine Valentine, Rector of Pakenham, Norton and Tostock with Great Ashfield, Hunston and Stowlangtoft, has held Christingle in lockdown with residents of the local nursing home at Stowlangtoft Hall. By supplying the candles and red tape, the Activities Manager Claire could do the rest, so that the residents could make the Christingles and then join a service led by Claire.

In normal times they hold monthly Songs of Praise and communion services at the Hall, and although joining online services proved difficult because of hearing difficulties, the team have

continued to support Claire and her colleague Lynn with resources to enable worship to continue, as well as keeping in touch with regular emails.

**Nativity Trail in Framlingham** - The Revd Chris Davey, Priest in Charge of Framlingham with Saxtead Benefice, has created a nativity trail around Framlingham with an activity sheet that people can download from the church website. Twelve local businesses have taken part of the nativity story and are displaying it in their window so young families can enjoy exploring the Christmas Story in this new way. The businesses are mostly small shops which had to close during lockdown and it is hoped the trail will increase footfall in what has been a hard year. The whole town is now involved in telling the Christmas Story! They also building a Christmas Tree of Hope, filling 200 brightly coloured hearts with messages of hope for the community in 2021, this also allows people to remember someone from who they will be separated this Christmas.

**Advent wreath making over Zoom** - The Revd Tracey James, Assistant Curate in the Benefice of Debenham & Helmingham and Lightwave, has started a project with a group of families who are meeting on Zoom once a week during Advent to make a wreath, light candles and talk about what each candle represents. Tracey delivered kits to the families which included the base, pre-drilled with holes for the candles, candles and greenery to get them started.

## Teenager brings church café's Sunday services into people's homes



A tech-savvy teenager has transformed a Suffolk church's online offering – bringing Sunday services into people's homes with the use of Facebook Live.

Connections Church in Saxmundham used to meet at the town's primary school every Sunday but when the coronavirus pandemic struck and the national lockdown was enforced, a new plan had to be devised to bring the church to its congregation instead.

Izzy Boswell, 15, has used her online skills to produce a weekly live service on the Connections Church Facebook page, with scores of people tuning in every Sunday. For

the full story please click [here](#).

## Resources to support the development of Online Church

Our resources to help churches develop a sustainable online church programme has been updated. We have developed a lot of resources on live streaming – all available on our website [here](#). This includes a video from the Revd Toby Tate sharing his story and videos from the Revd Jackson Battersby-Crompton. If you would like support for using OBS (Open Broadcaster Software) in your church services please do contact [Rachel Clover](#), Head Verger at the Cathedral, who has kindly offered technical advice.

## Notices

### Electoral Roll

It is really important that we get as many parishes' electoral roll figures as we use these to calculate the number of lay representatives each deanery is entitled to have on Diocesan Synod. The diocesan office has to inform them of this number before 31 December 2020, ahead of elections in the first half of next year. Currently we have only received around 50% of the roll figures, so we are asking as a matter of urgency, that any parishes who have not sent their returns, to please do so before **Friday 11 December**. This will ensure that we have a greater degree of accuracy going forward. Thank you to all those parishes who have submitted their figures. Please send to [alison.barker@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:alison.barker@cofesuffolk.org)

### Vacancies

[Diocesan Mission Enabler](#) | Closing date: 9 December

[Pioneer Evangelist for Ipswich Centre of Mission](#) | Closing date: 14 January 2021



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